

## *The President's Daily Brief*

20 February 1970

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]

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The fighting in the Plaine des Jarres area in Laos tapered off yesterday, but new Communist attacks could come anytime. (Page 3)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Talks between Jordanian Government authorities and fedayeen representatives are scheduled to be resumed tomorrow. (Page 5)

[REDACTED]

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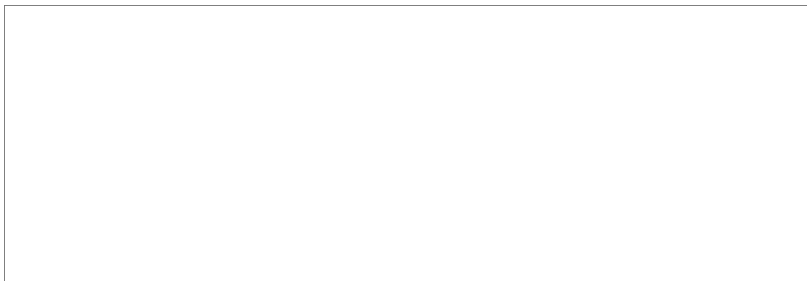
[REDACTED]

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COMMUNIST CHINA - US



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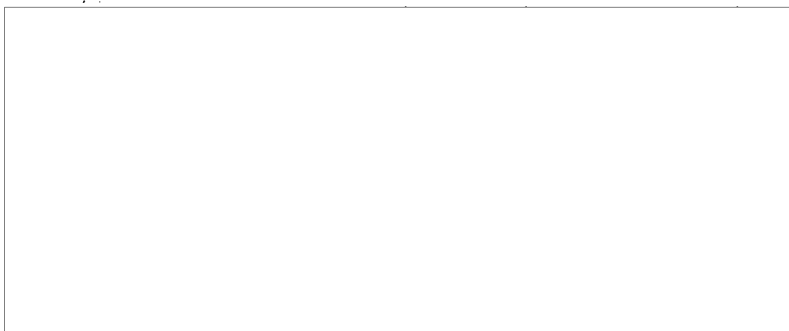
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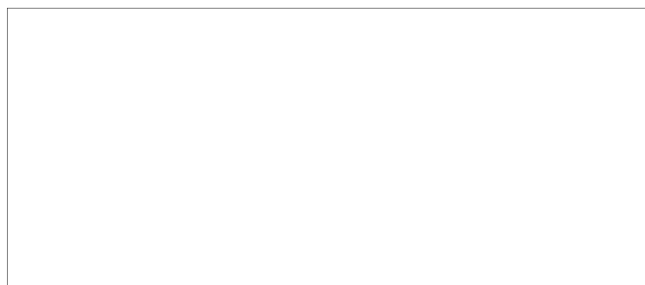
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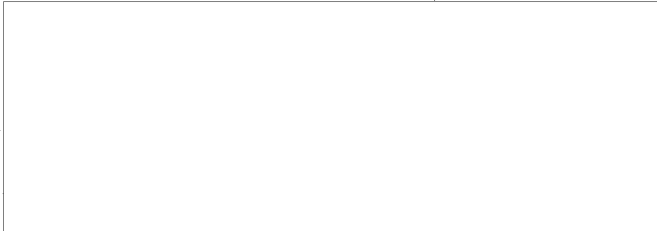


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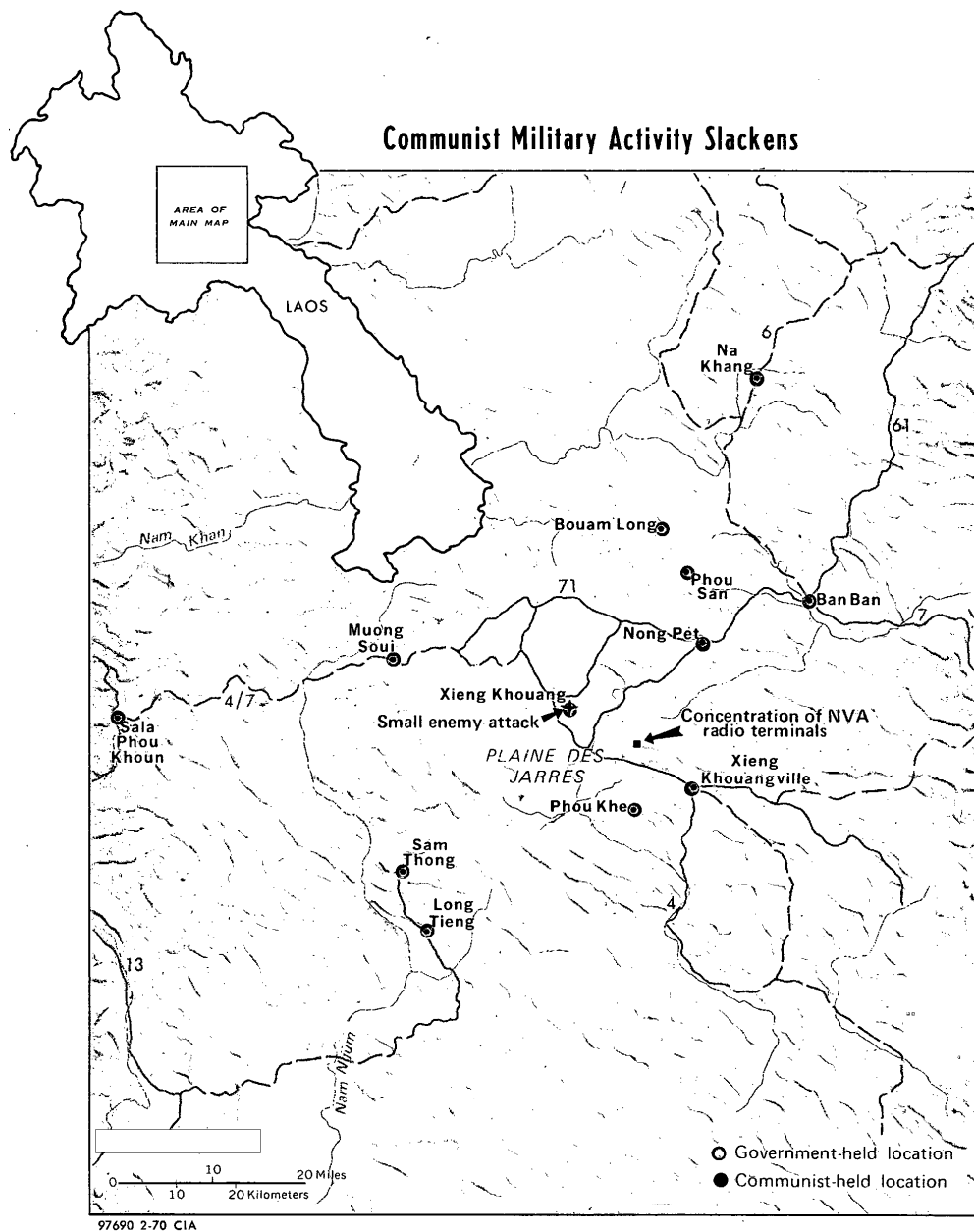


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LAOS

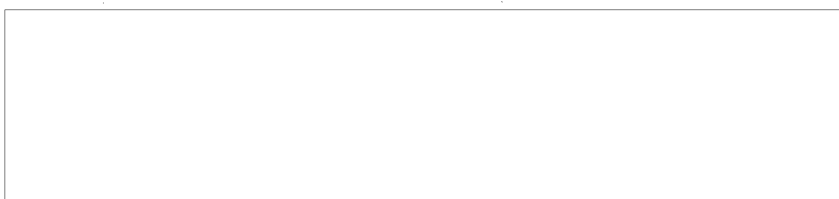
The fighting in the Plaine des Jarres area tapered off yesterday. The Communists carried out a limited probing and rocket attack against the Xieng Khouang airstrip. Government patrols and close air support have inflicted heavy casualties on enemy elements dug in immediately north of the airfield, but the Communists still hold the high ground.

*Losses suffered by the North Vietnamese in two previous attempts to overrun the base are probably responsible in part for the temporary easing of the situation. The Communists are probably regrouping their forces and awaiting poor flying weather before trying another round of heavy attacks against the government command post.*

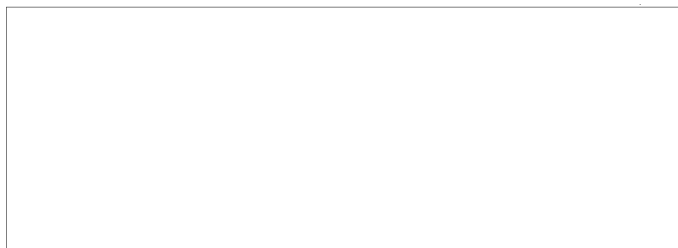
*The recent appearance of radio terminals associated with the North Vietnamese 312th Division just east of the Plaine suggests that the Communists are bringing up additional reinforcements.*

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USSR



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JORDAN

The internal dissension in the fedayeen that King Husayn expected (See The President's Daily Brief of 17 February) apparently has not developed. Talks between fedayeen representatives and government authorities are scheduled to resume tomorrow, in an atmosphere of high emotions and mutual resentment. Both sides are wary and suspicious, and both seem ready to fight--all their forces remain in place.

*Husayn has more to lose than the fedayeen, for his prestige and authority are at stake.*

*He [redacted] probably is determined to regain the initiative.*

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*The fedayeen have been using the holiday truce for effective politicking among the army and the populace, and they have improved their position by issuing "law and order" regulations of their own, to be enforced by the fedayeen themselves. This posture of reasonableness will be useful to them as the basis for either a compromise with the King or for a more broadly-based showdown if the King chooses to push for one.*


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NOTE

Egypt-USSR: Soviet flight activity in Egypt has increased substantially over the past two months, but most of it seems to be associated with aircraft testing and pilot familiarization. The rules banning the involvement of Soviet pilots in combat activity appear to remain in effect. 



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